

Message Text

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ACTION EB-11

INFO OCT-01 ARA-16 ISO-00 CAB-09 CIAE-00 COME-00 DODE-00

DOT-00 INR-10 NSAE-00 RSC-01 FAA-00 SS-20 NSC-07

PA-04 PRS-01 USIA-15 L-03 DRC-01 /099 W

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P 301520Z MAR 74

FM AMEMBASSY MEXICO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 945

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ETRN, MX

SUBJ: U.S.-MEXICO AIR TRANSPORT NEGOTIATIONS RECESS

REF: MEXICO 2653

1. SESSIONS SCHEDULED FOR THURSDAY, MARCH 28, WERE CANCELLED AT REQUEST OF MEXDEL, NOR DID MEXDEL SEND OVER DOCUMENT ENTAILING COUNTERPROPOSAL TO U.S. POSITION REPORTED REFTEL, AS IT HAD PROMISED. INSTEAD, AT DELAYED MORNING SESSION MARCH 29, MEXDEL CHAIRMAN STATED IT APPEARED THE DELEGATIONS WERE SO FAR APART AT THIS TIME THAT PREFERABLE TO RECESS AND MEET AGAIN IN MAY. USDEL, WHILE STATING WILLINGNESS TO CONTINUE NEGOTIATING HERE IF THERE WERE SOME VISIBLE MOMENTUM, AGREED THAT UNDER CIRCUMSTANCES RECESS WAS LOGICAL. PROPOSED NEXT MEETING IN WASHINGTON IN SECONDHALF OF MAY WITH SPECIFIC DATES TO BE WORKED OUT THROUGH EMBASSY.

2. IN SUMMING UP MEXDEL CHIEF, RODRIGUEZ TORRES, INDICATED POINTS OF GREATEST DIFFICULTY FOR MEXICO WERE (A) U.S. REQUEST FOR ELIMINATION OF MANDATORY STOP AT MERIDA (ON PAN AMERICAN ROUTE), (B) VARIOUS U.S. REQUESTS FOR FIFTH FREEDOM RIGHTS BEYOND MEXICO, (D) U.S. INSISTENCE ON DOUBLE AND SOMETIMES TRIPLE DESIGNATIONS (ALTHOUGH UNSTATED AT THIS TIME, HIS MAIN PROBLEM OBVIOUSLY WAS WITH OUR PROPOSAL TO COMBINE EXISTING U.S. ROUTES H AND O TO

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PROVIDE EASTERN BRANCH OF "Y" ON PAN AMERICAN INTERCONTINENTAL

ROUTE), AND (D) PROBLEM OF WORKING OUT A SATISFACTORY BARGAIN ON CALIFORNIA-WEST COAST OF MEXICO SECTOR. ON U.S. BEYOND REQUESTS, RODRIGUEZ INDICATED HIS DIFFICULTIES RELATED TO INTERESTS OF MEXICAN CARRIERS IN OPERATING TO THE SOUTH OF MEXICO AND ALSO COMMITMENTS UNDERTAKEN WITHIN NEWLY FORMED CLAC TO PROTECT INTRA-REGIONAL RIGHTS OF LATIN AMERICAN CARRIERS.

3. IN RESPONSE USDEL CHAIRMAN SAID, AS WE HAD ALREADY INDICATED, U.S. WAS PREPARED TO NEGOTIATE EXPANSIVE OR LIMITED EXCHANGE IN CALIFORNIA SECTOR, WITH PREFERENCE FOR MOST EXPANSIVE THAT COULD BE WORKED OUT, BUT ALWAYS IN CONTEXT OF FAIR BALANCE. AS REGARDS MULTIPLE DESIGNATIONS THERE WERE FEW IF ANY WE ARE ASKING FOR AND, IN FACT, THEY WERE NOT PRECISELY DUPLICATE DESIGNATIONS (I.E., ONE STOP AS AGAINST NON-STOP). AS CONCERNS FIFTH FREEDOM RIGHTS FOR U.S., USDEL POINTED OUT WE ALREADY HAD SUBSTANTIAL BEYOND RIGHTS SOUTH OF MEXICO AND, REALLY, WHAT WAS AT STAKE WAS CONNECTING RIGHTS BETWEEN U.S. AND MEXICAN POINTS. U.S. HAD ALREADY RECEIVED RIGHTS TO BEYOND POINTS INVOLVED FROM RECEIVING GOVERNMENTS (I.E., THE OTHER LATIN AMERICANS CAN PROTECT THEIR OWN INTERESTS IF THEY DON'T LIKE U.S. CARRIERS FLYING BETWEEN MEXICO AND THEIR COUNTRIES).

4. RE MERIDA MANDATORY STOP, USDEL FULLY RECOGNIZED THAT PROBLEM WAS CONCERN OF MEXICAN CARRIER NOW ENJOYING EXCLUSIVE NON-STOP MEXICO CITY-MIAMI MARKET. THIS COULD BE BALANCED OFF IN THE COURSE OF OVERALL NEGOTIATIONS. HOWEVER, EMPHASIZED THAT ELIMINATION OF MERIDA MANDATORY NON-STOP REQUIREMENT, AS FAR AS U.S. WAS CONCERNED, WAS KEY TO OVERALL QUESTION OF DEVELOPING CONNECTIONS BETWEEN THE U.S. AND THE YUCATAN. IN COUNTER-COMMENT RODRIGUEZ SARCASTICALLY SUGGESTED THAT SINCE, IN U.S. WORDS, BEYOND RIGHTS OF LITTLE VALUE SO PERHAPS BOTH SIDES COULD FORGET ABOUT THEM. USDEL CHAIRMAN SAID COMMENTS HAD BEEN DESIGNED MERELY TO PUT THE ISSUE IN PERSPECTIVE AND HE BY NO MEANS WISHED TO DISABUSE THE MEXICAN DELEGATION OF THE IMPORTANCE OF RESOLVING THIS ISSUE IF AGREEMENT ON ROUTE MODIFICATIONS WAS TO BE REACHED.

5. AT TERMINATION FORMAL SESSION, RODRIGUEZ INVITED SILBERSTEIN TO PRIVATE TALK. RODRIGUEZ EMPHASIZED HE WAS STRONGLY INHIBITED IN NEGOTIATING BY CONFLICTING PRESSURES FROM MEXICAN TOURISM INTERESTS WHO, UNREALISTICALLY, WERE PRESSING FOR BROADEST POSSIBLE OFFICIAL USE

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IBLE EXPANSION OF ROUTES, INCLUDING ADDITION OF NEW TOURISM DEVELOPMENTAL POINTS ON EVERY ROUTE IN SIGHT, WHILE ON OTHER HAND, MEXICAN AIRLINES WERE CAUTIOUS ABOUT THEIR WILLINGNESS TO TAKE ON NEW COMPETITION AND IN PAYING A PRICE FOR NEW ROUTES FOR THEMSELVES. HE SAID HE FELT WE COULD MAKE A LOT OF PROGRESS IF HE COULD SIT DOWN WITHOUT HIS DELEGATION WITH LEADERSHIP OF U.S. DELEGATION AND HAMMER OUT A FIRM AGREEMENT BASED ON MOST IMPORTANT INTERESTS OF BOTH SIDES THAT HAD TO BE TAKEN CARE OF. AT ONE POINT

HE SUGGESTED THAT, CONCEIVABLY, HE COULD REACH AGREEMENT WITHOUT DEALING AT SAN FRANCISCO. SILBERSTEIN RESPONDED THAT U.UXM WAS PREPARED TO NEGOTIATE EITHER ACROSS THE TABLE OR IN ANY WAY HE WISHED; HE WAS SURE RODRIGUEZ WOULD BE WELL RECEIVED IF HE WISHED TO COME TO WASHINGTON ON PRIVATE VISIT. HE EMPHASIZED, HOWEVER, THAT RODRIGUEZ SHOULD BE UNDER NO ILLUSIONS AS TO LIKELIHOOD OF BEING ABLE TO WORK A ROUTE ADJUSTMENT THAT DID NOT INCLUDE THE CALIFORNIA-MEXICO SECTOR. RODRIGUEZ INDICATED HE MIGHT TELEPHONE COBB (EB/OA) IN ABOUT TWO WEEKS TO ARRANGE FOR HIS VISIT TO WASHINGTON.

6. MEETING TERMINATED WITH EXPRESSIONS ON BOTH SIDES OF WARM PERSONAL REGARD.

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Message Attributes

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